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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/736,435
Filing Date: December 15, 2003
Appellant(s): SCHORR ET AL.

Maurice J. Pirio
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 2/20/2008 appealing from the Office action mailed 10/17/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

Hoellerer, et al. Patent Application Publication US 2006/0174211 A1

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 23-44 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Hoellerer et al. (hereinafter refers as Hoellerer, Pub. No. US 2006/0174211 A1; filed: March 31, 2006 related-us-appl-data:parent US continuation 09329140 Jun. 09, 1999).

Independent claim 23.

A computer-implemented method in a project information management system, comprising:

Hoellerer in fig. 1A illustrates a personal computer on which the user interface of the invention may be affected. Hoellerer in fig. 3 clearly illustrates the step of “placing a first line on an electronic drawing sheet, the first line representing a first time interval and including a first set of project events (e.g., reference #242 trip scenarios in fig. 3 shows the time interval for the first line as a time interval of Monday thru Sunday, a vacation per se has a starting and ending points)”. Hoellerer at paragraph 0079 teaches receiving an indication of a selection of a portion of the first line that represents a second time interval within the first time interval, by adding or deleting events from the map. Also in paragraph 0105 indicates that each trip plans includes one or more events. Hoellerer in fig. 10 illustrates the step of placing a second line (note: in fig. 3 the reference # 242 is the first line, and reference # 246 is the second line) on the electronic drawing sheet (#300 in fig. 3 is the drawing sheet) corresponding to the second time interval, the second line representing an expanded view (in [0105] discloses that each of the records 1010 corresponds to a trip plan and may include a field 1012 for containing a unique identifier for identifying each of the alternative trip plans, fields 1014 for containing the start time of each of the events, and fields 1016 for containing the end time of each of the events. On the other hand by expanding the alternative trip plan the user may see one or more events (e.g., see a Redskins game, visit Aunt Betty, visit an aquarium, see autumn foliage, see the Statue of Liberty)) of the second time interval and including a second set of project events corresponding to the first set of project events. Hoellerer at the same paragraph teaches the data structure 1000 includes records 1010. Hoellerer at paragraph 0020 teaches the consequences of changes to one type of

information on one window are depicted in the other types of information on the other windows, as the step of claim claims: detecting a modification of a project event of the first set that is within the second time interval. Hoellerer in fig. 15 step 1308 teaches the step of automatically updating the second set of project events in the second line to conform to the updated project event of the first set. Also Hoellerer at paragraph 0126 teaches that when an interval is automatically generated, such as when a date factoid is found in information returned in response to a query, all of the calendar alternatives may be updated to include the event.

Examiner's notes: Hoellerer's fig. 10 illustrates expanded view of the second line in fig. 3, # 242 is the first line (e.g., reference #242 trip scenarios shows the time interval for the first line as a time interval of Monday thru Sunday), and # 246 is the second line (e.g., #246 indicates the time interval of Tuesday-Thursday, furthermore, the handles 244a and b are for expanding the time interval of the second line) on the electronic drawing sheet (#300 in fig. 3 is the drawing sheet).

Claim 24.

The method of Claim 23 further comprising adding at least one project events to the second line without modifying the selected portion of the first line. Hoellerer in fig. 10 illustrates that the calendar window 240 may include a number of alternative trip plans. Each of the trip plans includes one or more events (e.g., see a Redskins game, visit Aunt Betty, visit an aquarium, see autumn foliage, see the Statue of Liberty).

Claim 25.

The method of Claim 23 wherein placing a first line on an electronic drawing sheet includes dragging a first shape from a stencil to the electronic drawing sheet with a pointing device. Hoellerer in figs. 4A and 4B shows locations of events are depicted with markers such as circles.

Claim 26.

The method of Claim 23 wherein the first set of chronological sequence of project events includes events selected from the group consisting of project milestones, project time intervals, date markers, and task descriptions. Hoellerer in fig. 2B shows the claim limitations.

Claim 27.

The method of Claim 23 wherein selecting a portion of the first line to expand the selected portion includes dragging and dropping an icon over the selected portion of the first line. Hoellerer in figs. 2B and 3 shows the claim limitations.

Claim 28.

Placing an icon on the selected portion of the first line and connecting the second line to the portion of the first line. Hoellerer in fig. 2B shows the claim limitations.

Claim 29.

The selected portion of the first line has a first length and the second line has a second length greater than the first length. Hoellerer at paragraph 0120 teaches if the user has deleted Camden but later decides to visit the Camden aquarium instead of the Baltimore aquarium, they can drag the marker from Baltimore to Camden. In an alternative embodiment, rather than having a single map in which the user can zoom and pan, a fixed set of maps may be used by the map window 220.

Claim 30.

The portion of the first line includes a first location and a second location, and wherein placing a second line on the electronic drawing sheet includes establishing a line having a first end representing a time corresponding to the first location on the portion of the first line and a second

end corresponding to the second location on the portion of the first line. Hoellerer in fig. 2B shows the claim limitations.

Claim 31.

Automatically updating the second set of project events in the second line to conform to the first set of project events includes modifying the second set of project events to be the same as the first set of project events. Hoellerer at paragraph 0126 teaches when an interval is automatically generated; such as when a date factoid is found in information returned in response to a query, all of the calendar alternatives may be updated to include the event.

The rejection of Claims 32, 35, 39, and 44 are similar to the rejection of claim 23.

Claims 33-34, and 36-38 Hoellerer in fig. 2B shows the claim limitations.

Claims 40-43, Hoellerer in fig. 2B shows the claim limitations. Also Hoellerer in fig. 10, recall that the calendar window 240 may include a number of alternative trip plans. Each of the trip plans includes one or more events (e.g., see a Redskins game, visit Aunt Betty, visit an aquarium, see autumn foliage, see the Statue of Liberty).

(10) Response to Argument

In response to appellant on page 9 (c) (1) that Hoellerer's fig. 10 does not describe placing a second line on an electronic drawing sheet. Hoellerer's fig. 10 illustrates expanded view of the second line in fig. 3, # 242 is the first line (e.g., reference #242 trip scenarios shows the time interval for the first line as a time interval of Monday thru Sunday), and # 246 is the second line (e.g., #246 indicates the time interval of Tuesday-Thursday, furthermore, the handles 244a and b are for expanding the time interval of the second line) on the electronic drawing sheet (#300 in fig. 3 is the drawing sheet).

In response to appellant on page 10 (c) (2) that Hoellerer does not describe expanded timeline of a portion of an alternative trip. Examiner pointed it out in previous paragraph that #246 indicates the time interval of Tuesday-Thursday, and the handles 244a and b are for expanding the time interval of the second line on the electronic drawing sheet (#300 in fig. 3 is the drawing sheet), Further, in the middle of [0079] discloses the user may add or delete events from the map. Knowing that the second line is within the first line, and then the second line becomes a portion of the first line. On the other hand, if one were to consider a segment (#246) of a trip (#242) as a "... first line on an electronic drawing ... " (Hoellerer teaches in [0105] each of the trip plans e.g., #246 in fig. 3), then the "... second line on the electronic drawing ...including a second set of project events corresponding to the first set of project events ... " (Hoellerer teaches in the same paragraph that each of the trip plans includes one or more events e.g., see a Redskins game, visit Aunt Betty, visit an aquarium, see autumn foliage, see the statue of Liberty. Each of events contains start/end times (see fig. 10 illustrates the data structure 1000 includes records 1010. Each of the records 1010 corresponds to a trip plan and may include a field 1012 for containing a unique identifier for identifying each of the alternative trip plans, fields 1014 for containing the start time of each of the events, and fields 1016 for containing the end time of each of the events), see fig. 10 below:

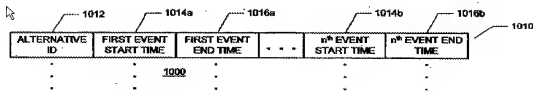


FIGURE 10

In response to appellant on page 11 (c) (3) that the Examiner has not even asserted that Hoellerer discloses various features of some of the claims and thus has not established a prima facie case of anticipation of those claims. Appellant argues in rejecting independent claims 32 and 44, Examiner simply states that the “rejection of claims 32, 35, 39, and 44 are similar to the rejection of claim 23.” Appellant has not alleged those features, which are not recited in claim 23.

Examiner believes those features of claims 32, 35, 39, and 44 are similar to the feature of claim 23, Examiner suggests to see [0076-0077], and figures 3, 10.

In response to appellant on page 11 (D) (1) that Hoellerer does not display on the electronic drawing sheet the first line that represents a second time interval within the first time interval. Examiner alleges that fig. 21B illustrates the first line that represents a second time interval within the first time interval in color on the electronic drawing sheet.

In response to appellant on pages 11-12 (D) (2), regarding claim 24 that Hoellerer does not in some cases a modification of adding a project event to an expanded line (i.e., the second line) will not result in a modification of the unexpanded line (i.e., the first line). Hoellerer in fig. 3 illustrates a fixed interval #247, however, an interval may be fixed in time, either automatically or in response to a user command, Noted in [0077]. Further Appellant argues the teaching of Hoellerer does not relate to adding an event to a second line without modifying a first line as recited by this claim. Rather, the teaching simply indicates that alternative trip plans have events, which says nothing about adding an event to one line without modifying another line.

Examiner's notes: Hoellerer in [0007] provides an example that clears the teachings, see following paragraph:

[0007] However, many tasks involve making decisions based on a number of factors (or choices) and are subject to initial uncertainty or vagueness. Such decisions typically require fixing or limiting the value of one or more factors (or choosing), interpreting the result, and iterating towards a desirable result. For example, in the context of planning a trip, factors may include (i) what one wants to do, (ii) when one wants to do it, (iii) where one wants to go, (iv) how much one wants to spend, etc. Choices in a group of factors may limit choices in that group or another group. That is, options are narrowed as choices are made or factors are fixed. For example, if a person defines a budget of \$1000.00 for a vacation, and decides to spend \$400.00 on airfare and \$400.00 on hotel accommodations, and decides that they will need \$150.00 for meals, that person will not have the option of a \$200.00 helicopter tour unless they increase their budget.

In response to appellant on pages 12 (D) (3), regarding claim 27 that Hoellerer does not teach dragging and dropping the icon (Examiner's interpretation: a graphical object) over the first line. Examiner believes that the claimed invention claims graphically expand/shorten the duration of a trip plan, e.g., see fig. 3 element #246 using #244b is considered as selecting a portion of the first line.

In response to appellant on pages 13 (D) (4-5), regarding claims 29, and 35 that Hoellerer does not teach the claim limitation as the second line length is greater than the first length. Examiner believes that if the first line represents a trip plan and the second line represent an event with duration in the trip plan, then inherently a user may expand the trip plan duration to cover the event or the second line duration. It is inherent because, if a person defines a trip plan of 5 days (i.e. considered as a first line) for a vacation, and decides to spend 3 days (i.e. considered as a portion of first line i.e. a second line) in NY city, and 3 days tour of D.C. (this selected portion of first line supposed to be 2 days, and it is greater than selected portion of the first line), that person will not have the option of a 3 days tour of D.C. unless they increase their 5 days to six days trip plan. As Hoellerer in paragraph [0076] specifies trip interval 246 may be

automatically generated, see fig. 3. That means events in trip interval 246 are dynamically linked to each other that teaches the features of claim 35.

In response to appellant on pages 14 (D) (6-7), regarding claims 41, and 44 that
Hoellerer does not teach the claim limitation as “the step of selecting the portion of the first line comprises selecting the portion of the first line by placing an icon onto the first line. Examiner believes fig. 3 element #246 using #244b is considered as selecting a portion of the first line.

Regarding claim 44, Hoellerer in fig. 6A illustrates five project milestones, which are corresponded to a second line of the first line or the trip plane that Hoellerer taught.

Examiner believes all claim features are anticipated by teachings of Hoellerer.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Javid amini

/J. A. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 2628

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